

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01      CALCUT 00770 090349Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 /037 W  
-----047518 090425Z /23

R 090141Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 6648  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS CALCUTTA 0770

NEW DELHI FOR USAID

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: BEXP, IN  
SUBJECT: GOWB NEED IMMEDIATE IMPORTS OF FIVE GAS/DIESEL POWER  
GENERATORS

REF: A. CALCUTTA 0680; B. CALCUTTA 0598

1. SYED MUSTAQUE MURSHED, NEWLY APPOINTED POWER COMMISSIONER FOR WEST BENGAL STATED 3 MAY DURING A SOCIAL OCCASION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL (GOWB) WAS SERIOUS IN ITS EFFORTS TO ACQUIRE FIVE GAS/DIESEL POWERED GENERATORS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE STATED THAT BRITISH GE AND WESTINGHOUSE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALREADY MET WITH HIM IN HIS OFFICE AND TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS. THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES CLAIMED THEY COULD HAVE THE GENERATORS IN OPERATION IN EIGHT MONTHS. THE BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE SOCIAL OCCASION, STATED THAT THE GENERATORS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02      CALCUT 00770 090349Z

COULD BE ACQUIRED AS PART OF A BRITISH AID PACKAGE IF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (GOI) APPROVED. MURSHED SAID THAT HE AND GOWB CHIEF MINISTER JYOTI BASU INTENDED TO USE ALL THEIR PERSUASIVE POWER ON PRIME MINISTER DESAI IN ORDER TO GET EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL FOR THE DEAL.

2. MURSHED ALSO STATED THAT HE WANTED TO INVESTIGATE ALL AVENUES AND THEREFORE REMAINED INTRESTED IN TALKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. COMPANIES WHO COULD SUPPLY THE GENERATORS. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER U.S. GENERATORS COULD BE ACQUIRED AS PART OF RENEWED U.S. AID OR THROUGH SOME OTHER MEANS, BY WHICH GOWB WOULD NOT HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THERE ARE NO U.S. GOVT. POSSIBILITIES ALONG THESE GRANT OR CONCESSIONAL LINES.

3. MURSHED COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE IS AWARE THE FIVE GENERATORS WILL NOT SOLVE THE MOST IMMEDIATE AND VERY PRESSING PROBLEM, WHICH IS A COMBINATION OF LABOR AGITATION AND POOR MAINTENANCE AT THE EXISTING POWER PLANTS, THE ACQUISITION OF THE FIVE UNITS WILL END THE GOWB'S DEPENDENCE ON THE TROUBLED EXISTING PLANTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF POWER TO THE PEOPLE OF CALCUTTA.

4. MURSHED ALSO SAID THAT CHIEF MINISTER BASU CALLS HIM EACH NIGHT AT HIS HOME TO CHECK ON THE PROGRESS HE IS MAKING IN ACQUIRING THE GENERATORS.  
LYDON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CALCUT00770  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780195-0623  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** CALCUTTA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780580/aaaacqce.tel  
**Line Count:** 84  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 45a12aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 CALCUTTA 680, 78 CALCUTTA 598  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2755604  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOWB NEED IMMEDIATE IMPORTS OF FIVE GAS/DIESEL POWER GENERATORS  
**TAGS:** BEXP, IN  
**To:** NEW DELHI BANGKOK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/45a12aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014